

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to the payment of claims fees and examination on the merits. This application was filed as a U. S. National Phase Application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/US04/28240 which was filed August 30, 2004, which in turn claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of United States Application Serial No. 60/499,317 which was filed August 29, 2003. The entire disclosure of each of the foregoing applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The above amendment to the specification is being made in order to perfect the above-described priority claim and to correct typographical errors in the specification.

Claims 3-9, 20-28, 33, 45-47, 50-133, and 135-138 are canceled herein.

Claims 17, 29, 30, 32, 34, 48, and 134 are amended to reduce multiple dependencies or to correct a typographical error. The foregoing amendments to the claims are made in order to reduce claim fees and are made without prejudice or disclaimer of Applicants' right to pursue the cancelled subject matter at a later date. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Submitted herewith in response to the Notification, are a copy of the Notification, a declaration of the inventors, a petition for an extension of time, and the requisite fees. The filing fee has been calculated based on the claims as amended above. No other fees are believed necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, but if additional fees are necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP deposit account number 13-2855. A copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: April 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Lynn I. Janulis
Registration No.: 53,066
Agent for Applicants
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300